

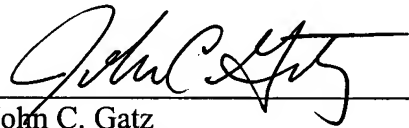
REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-16, and 18-27 are pending in the application. Claims 4 and 17 have been canceled. Claims 24 and 25 have been allowed. Claims 26 and 27 have been amended to obviate the objection.

The applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance; however, if any issues remain to be resolved the Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: February 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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